



**MINUTES OF THE ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2020**

Present

Councillors G Forman (Mayor), K Cargill, M Cargill, T Forman, E Randle, V Blake, M Bowe, C Neal-Sturgess, D Henderson, M Hempell, A Foster, K Soares, E Wilson and K Greenaway.

In attendance Mrs V Lowe, Town Clerk and Cllr S Juned, District Councillor

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT DISCRETION OF MAYOR

There was no public participation.

District and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr S Juned (Ward Member for Alcester Town) reported that SDC would be responding to the two government planning consultations. These raised some concerning issues particularly regarding proposed future housing targets for the District.

The Museum will be opening from 8th September on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The Museum and Town Hall will be open for the Heritage Open Day on 13th September. Litter Free Alcester have an autumn tidy up taking place on 12th September.

Cllr Juned reported on case work relating to jetting drains on Henley Street. She thanked the Town Clerk for her help in having debris cleared from the River Alne.

Cllrs Randle and Neal-Sturgess asked questions regarding the planning consultations which were answered by Cllr Juned. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would discuss drafting an ATC response to the consultations with Cllr Neal-Sturgess and M Cargill after the meeting.

Cllr M Cargill (County Councillor and Ward Member for Alcester and Rural) recommended that the Planning Committee should respond to the planning consultations in due course.

He reported that he had also requested the jetting at Henley Street. WCC were considering purchasing a second jetting machine to speed up response times. He reported that no sites had come forward in the Gypsy and Traveller "Call for Sites" process. Finally, he reported that he had been dealing with a large amount of case work regarding inconsiderate parking.

1. Apologies

No apologies were received from Cllr K Forbes or Cllr L Pusey.

2. Minutes of Council Meetings

The Mayor asked Councillors to consider for approval the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4th August 2020. They were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Neal-Sturgess seconded by Cllr Bowe and approved by Council; as this was a remote meeting, they were then signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Mayor.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on the agenda items.



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4. Mayors Report

The Mayor was pleased to report that she had attended the opening ceremony for the Greig Leisure Centre on 7th August. The refurbished centre was opened by Nadhim Zahawi, MP with Cllr Chris Kettle, Chairman of SDC in attendance. On 14th August, she reported that she had carried out the annual allotment judging with Cllr T Forman and Cllr K Cargill. It had been a difficult task but winners had been selected which would be announced later in the winter newsletter. The Mayor had attended the VJ Day ceremony on 15th September. Finally, the Mayor reported that she and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting on 28th September with SDC Officers, Tony Perks and George Hill regarding the Greig Hall.

5. Annual Governance and Accountability Return

The Clerk reported that PKF Littlejohn LLP had completed the external audit of the AGAR. The report had been issued indicating that there were no matters giving cause for concern and that there were no other matters which needed to be brought to the attention of the Council. The Clerk reported that she had posted the Notice of Conclusion of the Audit on the notice boards and on the website to complete the process for the financial year 2019-20. Councillors thanked the Town Clerk for her efforts in dealing with the audit.

6. Community Care Committee

Cllr K Cargill confirmed that she was satisfied that the Committee members approved the minutes from the meeting in July. As this was a remote meeting, the minutes were signed by the Town Clerk on behalf of Cllr Cargill. The list of community grants for 2020-21 was noted.

7. Planning Committee

Cllr Bowe gave a summary of the Planning Committee meeting held on 27th August, the minutes of which would follow in due course. The Committee had resolved to object to the inclusion of 2.5 storey houses in the scheme.

8. Report on Alcester Community Resilience

Cllr Foster reported that the Resilience group work had slowed down considerably with only 12 requests in August. The continuation of the group would be reviewed over the next few weeks. It was possibly that regular users could be paired off with volunteers.

9. Report on Town Council operations during Covid-19 crisis

The Town Clerk had circulated her report in advance which was discussed and approved. Cllr Bowe asked if it might be possible to run a holiday lunch club in other holidays. The Town Clerk explained that the project was dependent on particular volunteers and required considerable planning so would not be practical in a short holiday such as half term. It would be considered in future holidays if circumstances allowed.

10. Payment of Accounts

The Town Clerk presented the Payment of Accounts for the preceding month. The accounts were proposed to be approved by Cllr K Cargill, seconded by Cllr Foster and carried by Council.



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11. Correspondence

A thank you card from Timothy Cox, Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic response was noted.

Email correspondence received by the Clerk was taken as read.

There was no further correspondence to report.

12. Dates of future meetings

Planning Committee Monday 7th and 28th September at 7pm

Community Care Committee Tuesday 8th September at 7pm

Community Facilities Committee Tuesday 15th September at 7pm

Presidium Tuesday 29th September at 7pm

Full Council Tuesday 6th October 2020 at 7pm

All meetings to be held remotely using Zoom software.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Town Clerk on clerk@alcester-tc.gov.uk for details of how to join the meeting.

13. Abbey Fields

The Mayor proposed that in accordance with the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for item number(s), which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as indicated. This was seconded by Cllr K Cargill and carried by Council. The meeting was closed to the public and continued in confidential session.

The Mayor closed the meeting.